

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00895 120855Z

21

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LUANDA 0895

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: MPLA PLAN TO DRIVE FNLA OUT OF LUANDA

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL CARDOSO AND AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL VALENTE TOLD ME ON JULY 11 THAT THE VIOLENCE OF THE PAST TWO OR THREE DAYS STEMS FROM AN MPLA PLAN TO DRIVE FNLA OUT OF LUANDA. THE PLAN HAS BEEN BREWING FOR SOME TIME, THEY SAID, AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT EARLIER, BUT NATIONAL UNITY WEEK INTERVENED.

2. THE GENERALS SAID THAT MPLA MILITARY COMMANDER CHIETO AND FIRST MILITARY REGION COMMANDER NITO ALVES, CONCEIVED THE PLAN AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EXECUTION. AGOSTINHO NETO GAVE HIS APPROVAL TO THE OPERATION. MODERATES IN MPLA ARE APPALLED, BUT HAVE NO POWER TO STOP THE HARD LINERS.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00895 120855Z

3. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PLAN, ACCORDING TO CARDOSO, WAS TO GAIN CONTROL OF ALL ROADS INTO LUANDA. THE CURRENT PHASE IS THE SYSTEMATIC ELIMINATION OF ALL FNLA INSTALLATIONS AND THE CAPTURE OR REMOVAL FROM THE CITY OF FNLA TROOPS, WHOM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THINKS NUMBER ABOUT 500 TO 2,000 AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE THIRD PHASE, SAID VALENTE, PROBABLY WILL BE TO PROVOKE THE DEPARTURE FROM LUANDA OF THE FNLA MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

5. BOTH GENERALS DOUBTED THAT MPLA WILL TRY AND DRIVE FNLA OUT OF NORTHERN ANGOLA, BUT MAY UNDERTAKE SOME OFFENSIVE ACTIONS IN THE EAST.

6. CARDOSO SAID THAT SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST NATION EQUIPMENT CONTINUES TO FLOW INTO ANGOLA FOR THE MPLA. THE VESSEL "SUNRISE" I MENTIONED IN AN EARLIER CABLE UNLOADED VEHICLES AND FIELD KITCHENS, AMONG OTHER EQUIPMENT, BUT NO WEAPONS SAID CARDOSO. VALENTE ADDED THAT THE TWO COASTWISE VESSELS USED BY MPLA, THE MAIOMBE AND THE DINGE, ARE NOW GOING TWENTY TO THIRTY MILES OUT TO SEA TO RECEIVE CARGO FROM FREIGHTERS, IN ADDITION TO FERRYING SUPPLIES DOWN FROM PONTE NOIRE.

KILLORAN

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NNN

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